

going to have to sit in this room everyday and listen to some old man talk about which countries lie on which longitudes. I soon found that I could not wait for my social studies class everyday. Mr. Barron did not only teach us the physical features of our world, but he showed us the culture, and the many different ways of life. Mr. Barron had a love for culture. He loved diversity and I am so very thankful that he passed a little of that on to me. To show how much he loved diversity I would have to know him like the back of my hand, but I don't. I do know a little about Steve Barron though, I know that he taught in an inner city school in New York City, and that he also lived in the Arctic Regions of Alaska, and if that is not a love for diversity, then I do not know what is.

Every year when it was time to do fundraisers, Mr. Barron always used the same two companies, one of them was called Humanities, and this company took a portion of their profit and gave it to an endangered animals foundation. Mr. Barron was a "devoted environmentalist". This was one way of showing that he cared about our planet. Another way was as part of our classroom grades we had to bring in plastic bags or some other form of recycling every week. He was helping the earth any way that he could. These two things are only a part of the great man that Steve Barron was.

I feel that Steve Barron should be Honored and Recognized as the wonderful educator and person that he was.

Steve Barron was born on August 22, 1943 in Brooklyn, New York. He was the loving husband to Linda (Kupiec) Barron for 29 years. He and Linda had two daughters, Jenny and Jenine. On July 25, 2003 Steven E. Barron died of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. In an ending to this letter I would like to quote the motto that Mr. Barron lived by, "The choices we make dictate the lives we lead."

Sincerely,

ROBIN L. LASKO.

SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the more than 70,000 Americans and their family members who are currently affected by Spina Bifida. October is National Spina Bifida Awareness Month. Spina Bifida is the Nation's most common, permanently disabling birth defect. It is a neural tube defect that occurs when the central nervous system does not properly close during the early stages of pregnancy. Each year more than 4,000 pregnancies are affected and of these 1,500 babies are born with Spina Bifida.

I would like to especially recognize Angeline Gonzalez-Abreu, the niece of my Chief of Staff, Arthur Estopinan. Angie is a precious little three year old who was born with Spina Bifida. She is an absolute delight who brings great joy to all who are blessed to know her. I have had the great pleasure of spending time with this vivacious little bundle of joy, and am moved by the tremendous progress she has made in her life thus far.

The Spina Bifida Association of America (SBAA), an organization that has helped people with Spina Bifida and their families for nearly 30 years, works tirelessly to prevent

and reduce suffering from this devastating birth defect.

I would like to acknowledge and thank SBAA and the local chapters in my State for all that they have done for the Floridian families affected by this birth defect.

The exact cause of Spina Bifida is not known, but researchers have concluded that women of childbearing age who take daily folic acid supplements reduce their chances of having a Spina Bifida pregnancy by up to 75 percent.

I am proud to be a member of the newly established Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus. The Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus will bring increased attention to this condition and advance initiatives that will improve the quality of life for those individuals and their families living with Spina Bifida.

I again wish to thank the SBAA and its chapters for all of their hard work to prevent and reduce suffering from this birth defect and for their commitment to improve the lives of those 70,000 individuals living with Spina Bifida throughout our Nation. I wish the Spina Bifida Association of America the best of luck in its endeavors and urge all of my colleagues and all Americans to support its important efforts.

COMMENDING VICTORINE Q. ADAMS FOR BEING HONORED BY THE BLACK/JEWISH FORUM OF BALTIMORE, INC. FOR HER MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO BALTIMORE

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Honorable Victorine Q. Adams who is deservedly being honored by the Black/Jewish Forum of Baltimore, Inc. (BLEWS) at their 25th anniversary dinner meeting in Baltimore on November 19, 2003.

Mrs. Adams served effectively in both the Maryland General Assembly and the Baltimore City Council, where she served for 16 years. While a member of the City Council, she led the successful effort to establish the Baltimore Fuel Fund, the first such assistance fund in the nation. Early in her career in 1946, she organized the Colored Women's Democratic Campaign Committee and initiated a voter registration campaign that enrolled 4,000 persons. In 1958, Mrs. Adams and Ethel P. Rich organized Woman Power, which was instrumental in desegregating Baltimore's downtown hotels.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Mrs. Adams for her significant contributions to Baltimore as an elected official, community leader, civil rights activist, businesswoman and humanitarian.

IN HONOR OF SHERIFF DON HORSLEY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an extraordinary leader of San Mateo County, California, Sheriff Don Horsley, who is being awarded the 2003 Distinguished Citizens Award by the Pacific Skyline Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Don Horsley was first elected Sheriff of San Mateo County in June 1993, with a law enforcement career that spanned more than thirty years. He began as a patrol officer in Daly City and later served as a patrol deputy in East Palo Alto. In these positions, he learned to effectively respond to the needs and concerns of citizens as he worked directly with them in their communities.

Sheriff Horsley has been unwavering in his commitment to the people of the communities of San Mateo County. In 1992, when the small community of East Palo Alto was given the dubious title of being the nation's "murder capital," Sheriff Horsley made a promise to the people of East Palo Alto that the Sheriff's office would help the community and make it the safe place its residents deserved. Immediately, 18 Sheriff's Deputies began working with the East Palo Alto Police Department and within 3 years, violent crimes were down 54 percent and homicides decreased by an astounding 86 percent. Because of Sheriff Horsley's commitment, the San Mateo County Sheriff's office continues to work with the City of East Palo Alto to ensure that its law enforcement needs are fully met.

Sheriff Horsley is a caring and compassionate law enforcement leader. During the expansion of the Maguire Correctional Facility, Sheriff Horsley ensured that the project included facilities for mental and health care, substance abuse recovery, and educational and religious needs for inmates.

Sheriff Horsley is a leader among his colleagues in law enforcement. He has served on the Board of Directors of the California Peace Officers' Association, the San Mateo County Criminal Justice Council, the San Mateo County Vehicle Theft Task Force, the County Narcotic Task Force, and the Northern California High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, among many other organizations.

Beyond his career in law enforcement, Sheriff Horsley is dedicated to improving the education and the lives of youth. He is not only a former classroom teacher and a Board Member of Redwood City's Garfield Charter School, but he is also a strong supporter of the Boy Scouts of America. He has been instrumental in the Law Enforcement Exploring program, the Boy Scouts' STAR Camp and the Sea Scouting program. Sheriff Horsley has served as Co-chair of the Attorney General and State Superintendent of Public Instruction's Safe Schools Task Force.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to call Don Horsley my friend and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and thanking Sheriff Horsley for his extraordinary service to our community, our state and our nation.